

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TOKYO 10830 140821Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 EB-08 CCO-00 PASO-00 /028 W
-----049367 150032Z /73

R 140803Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8796

UNCLAS TOKYO 10830

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SENV, JA
SUBJECT: OIL SPILL INCIDENT IN SENDAI

TO: KAREN FINE COBURN
CENTER FOR SHORT-LIVED PHENOMENA
138 MT AUBURN STREET
CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138

1. IMMEDIATELY AFTER AN EARTHQUAKE OF MAGNITUDE 7.5 OCCURRED IN NORTHERN JAPAN CENTERING AROUND MIYAGI PREFECTURE AT 5:14 P.M. ON JUNE 12, THREE HEAVY OIL TANKS OF TOHOKU PETROLEUM COMPANY'S SENDAI OIL REFINERY DEVELOPED CRACKS, AND FROM 50,000 TO 60,000 KILOLITERS OF SEMI-PRODUCT HEAVY OIL LEAKED, ILLING THE PRIMARY RETAINING POND COVERING AN AREA OF 3,600 SQUARE METERS. THE OIL THEN OVERFLOWED THE BANK (80 CENTIMETERS HIGH) AND LEAKED INTO THE HARBOR.

2. ACCORDING TO THE MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY (MITI), THE AMOUNT OF HEAVY OIL WHICH FLOWED INTO THE HARBOR WAS SEVERAL THOUSAND KILOLITERS (ESTIMATES VARY ACCORDING TO AGENCIES CONDUCTING INVESTIGATION: TOHOKU PETROLEUM ESTIMATED IT AT 1,500 KILOLITERS; MITI AT 2,000 KILOLITERS; AND FIRE DEFENSE AGENCY AT 5,000 KILOLITERS). THREE FLOATING FENCES HAVE PREVENTED THE OIL FROM FLOWING INTO THE
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SEA OUTSIDE THE SENDAI HARBOR. NO DAMAGE TO OYSTER AND LAVER CULTIVATION BEDS AROUND THE HARBOR HAS OCCURRED. IT WILL TAKE ABOUT A WEEK TO RECOVER THE SPILLED OIL ON LAND AND ON THE WATER SURFACE.

SIGNED: JUSTIN L. BLOOM
COUNSELOR FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL AFFAIRS

AMERICAN EMBASSY, TOKYO, JAPAN
MANSFIELD

NOTE BY OC/T: PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEE.

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OIL SPILLS, EARTHQUAKES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2347004
Secure: OPEN
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TAGS: SENV, JA
To: STATE
Type: TE
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Review Markings:
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